

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 072509

61

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 ABF-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 SAB-01 /191 R

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NEA/ARP - FMDICKMAN

IO - WBUFFUM

AF/N - GLANE

S/S - SRGAMMON

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R 101628Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072509

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, XI, UN

SUBJECT: SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 072509

KUWAIT PASS DOHA

1. UNRWA IS IN SERIOUS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY; IF ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NOT FORTHCOMING BY MAY 1974 AT LATEST, UNRWA WILL BE FORCED TO MAKE MAJOR CUTS IN SERVICES TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEES, PARTICULARLY IN EDUCATION, WHICH IS LARGEST CASH ITEM IN UNRWA BUDGET. UNRWA CALCULATES THAT PLANNED CUTS IN EDUCATION, WHICH WOULD SAVE 7.5 MILLION DOLS., WILL MEAN DISMISSAL OF 56,000 STUDENTS AND OVER 2,000 TEACHERS. BRIEFLY, UNRWA NEEDS 15.5 MILLION DOLS. TO COVER PAST AND PROJECTED BUDGET DEFICITS, 8.5 MILLION DOLS. FOR IMPROVING SOME FACILITIES, AND 5.0 MILLION DOLS. TO RESTORE TO A MINIMAL LEVEL UNRWA'S WORKING CAPITAL FUND.

2. BOTH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM AND UNGA BODY CHARGED WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNRWA, THE UNRWA WORKING GROUP, HAVE APPEALED TO USG AND OTHER UN MEMBER STATES, PARTICULARLY TO OIL-PRODUCING ARAB NATIONS, TO ASSIST IN COVERING UNRWA'S URGENT NEEDS. THUS FAR RESPONSE TO SYG'S APPEAL HAS BEEN PROMISES OF SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SWEDEN (300,000 DOLS.), PAKISTAN (10,000 RUPEES) AND DENMARK (60,000 DOLS.). THE EEC IS CONTEMPLATING A SPECIAL DONATION OF ABOUT 5 MILLION DOLS. WE ARE WILLING TO REQUEST FROM CONGRESS ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR UNRWA BUT IT IS ALREADY CLEAR THAT OUR REQUEST WILL HAVE ROUGH GOING IF RICH ARAB STATES, WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FAR LESS THAN THEIR MEANS, DO NOT ALSO CONTRIBUTE. OIL EMBARGO STILL FRESH MEMORY IN PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION, AND CONTRAST BETWEEN WEALTH OF ARAB OIL STATES AND PLIGHT OF PALESTINIANS FAR BETTER KNOWN HERE THAN IN PRE-OCTOBER TIMES.

3; ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL, OUTLINE UNRWA'S NEEDS AND URGE THAT YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTE NOW AND GENEROUSLY, THROUGH UNRWA, TO PALESTINIANS IN NEED. YOU SHOULD INCLUDE FOLLOWING POINTS IN YOUR PRESENTATION:

(A) U.S. NOW MAKING EVERY EFFORT TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT JUST SETTLEMENT OF ARAB-ISRAEL DISPUTE AND MAGNITUDE AND SINCERITY OF THIS EFFORT IS RECOGNIZED IN LEADING ARAB CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 072509

CAPITALS, AND MANIFESTED IN IMPROVED U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD.

(B) WE HAVE ALWAYS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NO SETTLEMENT OF ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT SATISFYING LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS. WE HAVE BEEN MAJOR SUPPORTERS OF UNRWA FOR QUARTER-CENTURY, HAVING GIVEN OVER 500 MILLION DOLS., EVEN IN FACE OF CONTINUING

DOMESTIC PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM. UNRWA HAS MET BASIC NEEDS OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES, ALTHOUGH AUSTERELY, IN IMPARTIAL, NON-POLITICAL MANNER, AND ITS COLLAPSE AT THIS TIME COULD ENDANGER THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS IN WHICH WE ARE NOW ENGAGED.

(C) USG IS PREPARED TO ASSIST UNRWA BUT IT CANNOT BE THE ONLY MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO COME TO UNRWA'S RESCUE. AMERICAN PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION IS BETTER INFORMED THAN EVER OF ARAB VIEWPOINTS AND OF LIFE IN ARAB WORLD; THEY KNOW OF ARAB WEALTH AND OF THE NEED OF ARAB REFUGEES. AMERICANS ARE AS WILLING AS EVER TO HELP THOSE IN NEED BUT THEY WANT TO SEE THAT OTHERS, PARTICULARLY THE NEEDY'S OWN PEOPLE, ARE ALSO DOING ALL THEY CAN TO HELP.

(D) GENEROUS ARAB ASSISTANCE TO ARABS IN NEED, THROUGH UNRWA, WOULD BE ONE MORE SIGN OF ARAB UNITY, OF ARAB CONCERN FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS, AND, TO US, OF ARAB RECOGNITION OF THE NEW ERA IN U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS.

(E) UNRWA'S NEEDS ARE URGENT AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING YOUR GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE ASAP.

4. ARAB STATES HAVE ARGUED FOR YEARS THAT REFUGEES ARE CREATION OF THE WEST AND SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY THE WEST. THIS IS PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLE AS A POLITICAL POSITION BUT, IF IT IS RAISED WITH YOU, YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT IT IS NOT UNDERSTOOD IN THE U.S., AND ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED IF IT WERE. WHAT IS RELEVANT HERE, BOTH IN OUR PEACEMAKING EFFORTS AND IN OUR DESIRE TO HELP UNRWA, IS TO ASSURE THAT U.S. PUBLIC

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PAGE 04 STATE 072

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